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# Japanese

## Step-by-Step:

### The complete guide for schools & teachers starting Japanese classes

Advice · Generating support · Getting funding · Finding a Japanese teacher · Japanese teaching resources · Networking · Training · Encouraging your pupils

**The Japan Foundation London** [www.jpf.org.uk/language](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language)  
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## Introduction

Recent developments within UK education indicate that Modern Foreign Language education is getting broader in scope, with an increased focus on intercultural understanding and languages beyond the traditional line-up of French, German and Spanish. This is reflected particularly in the changes made to the National Curriculum for primary schools, in which it is compulsory for maintained schools to offer foreign language education to Key Stage 2 pupils as of September 2014. **The National Curriculum does not specify which languages must be taught at KS2, meaning that schools have complete freedom to choose whichever languages they wish.**

The reasons for teaching **Japanese** at primary and secondary schools are many. Japan is one of the world's largest economies, with long-standing and significant business, cultural and political ties with the UK. Learning Japanese gives UK pupils the rare opportunity to experience a language and culture from outside Europe (including a writing system that is completely different from English script), contributing to their intercultural awareness. It is comparatively easy at the beginner level - Japanese has only two irregular verbs, no genders, simple pronunciation, no plurals and is not a tone language. And finally, Japan is a fascinating country which appeals to young people through its history, science and, of course, pop culture (especially its cartoons, comics, music, fashion and computer games). **You may find that Japanese engages your pupils more than any other language you have ever taught!**

If your school has never taught Japanese before, it can be difficult to know where to start. Fortunately, **Japanese is one of the most well-supported languages taught in the UK.** With funding, resources and a dedicated support network readily available to all UK schools and teachers, you may be surprised at how quickly and easily your school can begin to offer Japanese classes.

This step-by-step guide outlines how you can get Japanese language classes up and running at your school, be they taught as an extra-curricular or club activity, or fully integrated into the school curriculum or main school timetable.



## 1. Get some advice first!

- **Contact us!** First of all, please feel free to get in contact with us at the Japan Foundation London for personal and professional advice. You can call as at **020 7492 6570**, or email [info.language@jpf.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpf.org.uk). We can talk you through some of the basics of launching a Japanese class at your school, give guidance and advice, and answer any questions you have. We can even arrange for you to meet with one of our Japanese Language Advisors at the Japan Foundation face-to-face in order to discuss your needs in depth.
- **FAQ:** Many of the questions and concerns of teachers starting out with Japanese are addressed on our extensive FAQ section of our website: [www.jpf.org.uk/language/faq.php](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/faq.php). If you can't find the information you need here, however, we encourage you to get in direct contact with us.
- **List of UK Schools Teaching Japanese:** You can find a list of primary and secondary schools teaching Japanese on our website here: [www.jpf.org.uk/language/listofschoools.php](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/listofschoools.php). You can contact schools on this list local to you for additional advice. There are also Case Studies of schools teaching Japanese available in this section of our website.
- **Class Acts DVD:** You can request a copy of our *Class Acts* DVD to be sent to your school for free. This DVD documents success stories from the UK Japanese classroom and demonstrates best practice in teaching Japanese in the UK secondary sector (there is useful information for primary schools as well). An information pack including information about our services and teaching resources will be included with the DVD. To order your DVD and information pack, please email [info.language@jpf.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpf.org.uk).

## 2. Generate support from your school

It is essential to get support and approval from Head Teachers, Heads of Department and other decision-makers in your school in order to get a Japanese class up and running. One of the ways the Japan Foundation can help you generate support for Japanese at your schools is through our **Japanese Tasters for Schools (JTS) Programme**.

This programme exists to create links between schools and Japanese-speaking volunteers. JTS volunteers are native or fluent Japanese speakers who carry out school visits across the UK to introduce primary and secondary school pupils to the Japanese language. The taster itself is free; the school is only obliged to cover the volunteer's travel expenses. The taster can be integrated into an International or Japan Day. One of the main purposes of JTS is to give schools who do not teach Japanese the opportunity to find out what it is like to learn the language and to provide them with further information should they wish to start offering Japanese. For further information about the JTS Programme and to book a taster, please go to [www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching\\_stepout.php](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_stepout.php), or email [info.language@jpf.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpf.org.uk).

## 3. Secure a budget

Starting a new language class can be expensive in terms of teachers' wages and purchasing resources. Fortunately, funding is available from the following sources:



**Japan Foundation Japanese Language Local Project Support Programme:** Institutions can apply for up to £3,000 for non-profit-making projects or activities which will have a wide impact on the promotion of Japanese language education throughout the UK, or in their local area. This includes projects that introduce Japanese into the curriculum or main school timetable at primary and secondary schools. We also have a special fund of up to £1,000 for schools that wish to teach Japanese as an extra-curricular activity. Full details about funding criteria, application guidelines and examples of past projects we have funded can be found here: [www.jpf.org.uk/language/funding.php](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/funding.php)

**Other organisations:** Other organisations that may be able to provide funding for Japanese Language-related projects include the **Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation**, the **Daiwa Anglo Japanese Foundation** and the **Japan Society**.

## 4. Source a teacher

If you need to find a Japanese teacher, the Japan Foundation can help you:

- **Online advertising:** We can advertise Japanese teaching positions on our website for free here: [www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching\\_job.php](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_job.php)
- **JLE-UK:** We can also advertise the position on our Japanese Language Education UK (JLE-UK) e-discussion group for Japanese teachers, with over 900 subscribers: <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=JLE-UK>. We will circulate the advertisement for free on your behalf
- **JTS volunteer:** If you have had a Japanese taster session via our JTS Programme, you are very welcome to approach the volunteer involved to see if they would be interested in employment as a Japanese teacher at your school.
- **Your existing staff!** If you or any of your existing staff speak Japanese, even to a basic level, this should be utilised! The Japan Foundation can provide specialist courses for non-native teachers of Japanese.



## 5. Get teaching resources

There are many textbooks, websites and other resources available for teaching Japanese at every level of education. Some readily obtainable Japanese language resources include:



### Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese [www.erin.ne.jp](http://www.erin.ne.jp)

A growing number of young people are studying Japanese language because they are attracted to Japan's "cool" culture. For these young people, the Japan Foundation has developed the series "Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese." The free website features mini-dramas by up-and-coming actors together with clear and fun explanation by animated characters. In addition to language study, the website is designed to help learners develop an attitude conducive to cultural understanding. In addition to plenty of videos and audio resources, the website also includes fun games and activities. The DVD and workbook for the programme is available at specialist Japanese book shops.



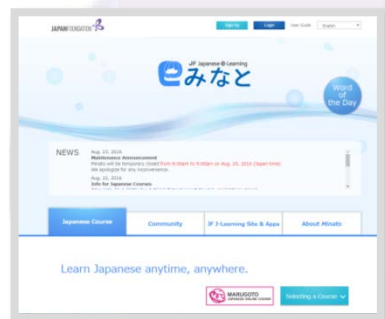
### Japanese in Anime and Manga <http://anime-manga.jp>

The purpose of this site is to give Japanese learners and anime/manga fans from all over the world an opportunity to learn Japanese in an enjoyable way, using the anime and manga they enjoy as a gateway to their studies. The site aims to deepen learners' understanding of Japanese language and culture, and to give an added incentive to study.



### MARUGOTO+ [www.marugotoweb.jp](http://www.marugotoweb.jp)

MARUGOTO+ is a website where users can learn about Japanese language and culture alongside the contents of *Marugoto: Japanese language and culture*, a coursebook which uses the Japan Foundation's *JF Standard for Japanese Language Education* as a basis. Users can practice real-life Japanese while watching videos that help deepen understanding of actual everyday situations, in order to achieve various 'Can-do' goals.



### JF Japanese e-Learning Minato <https://minato-jf.jp>

This Japanese language learning platform provides an opportunity to study Japanese for those who may wish to begin learning, but cannot attend an actual Japanese language school. The main course of Minato is the Marugoto Japanese Online Course, which we recommend for those who wish to comprehensively learn about the Japanese language and culture. With this course you can have an integrated learning experience by using interactive e-learning materials to study the language skills needed for communication.



## NIHONGO e-na Portal for Learning Japanese

<http://nihongo-e-na.com>

The site features various websites and online tools useful for studying Japanese, and aims to provide support for learners who are looking for fun ways to study.



## Hirogaru, get more of Japan and Japanese

<https://hirogaru-nihongo.jp>

A website where you can enjoy studying Japanese while getting information on various topics. It is aimed for Japanese language learners with a proficiency level of A1 or A2 (Starter to Elementary) in the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education. Users can engage with various aspects about Japan and the Japanese language through articles and videos.

## Apps



### Memory Hint Apps

Study hiragana, katakana and kanji the fun way using mnemonic pictures with our fun Memory Hint apps from the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute Kansai! They include mnemonic memory hints, quizzes and tables in which you can listen to how each character is pronounced. They can be downloaded for free from iTunes, Google Play and Amazon.

## Resources Especially for Teachers



### 力CHIKARA Japanese Teaching Resources for Secondary Schools

[www.jpjf.org.uk/language/teaching\\_chikara.php](http://www.jpjf.org.uk/language/teaching_chikara.php)

CHIKARA is a comprehensive set of teaching resources to support the GCSE curriculum. The resources are designed for students to learn the structure of Japanese language and to practise the language learnt in a communicative setting.



### Minna no Kyoza Site <http://minnanokyoza.jp/>

Minna no Kyoza is a website for Japanese language teachers around the world to create suitable teaching materials for their students. It features resources, a forum and advice on creating effective learning materials.



### Japanese Taster Lesson Resource Activity Pack (Draft Version)

[www.jpjf.org.uk/language/tasterpack.php](http://www.jpjf.org.uk/language/tasterpack.php)

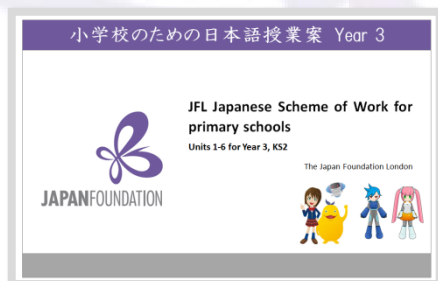
A brand new resource created by the Japan Foundation London, this Taster Pack is designed for teachers and JTS Programme volunteers looking for ideas for teaching one-off sessions in Japanese. It's packed full of fun games, activities and lesson ideas for introducing basic Japanese language and culture for primary and secondary school pupils.

## Specialist Resources for Primary Japanese



### Ready Steady NihonGO! [www.japansociety.org.uk/rsn](http://www.japansociety.org.uk/rsn)

Ready Steady NihonGO! is a unique scheme of work for teaching Japanese at Key Stage 2. The scheme comprises ten structured 45-minute lessons, with comprehensive teachers' notes and a set of accompanying Culture Notes. The course is available for free online from the link above. A CD-ROM version is also available from the Japan Society.



### JFL Japanese Scheme of Work for primary schools – JSOW

[www.jpjf.org.uk/language/jsow.php](http://www.jpjf.org.uk/language/jsow.php)

JSOW is based on The National Curriculum in England, 2013. JSOW's language tasks are based on tangible 'Can-do' activities rather than an analytical approach. As the teaching methodology is different to secondary education, this scheme of work will provide a good base for further language study, whether pupils carry on studying Japanese in secondary school, or even if they start studying a new language from scratch as part of their secondary education. The teaching resources also include authentic materials and lots of cultural items.

## Japan Foundation London Book Loan Service

We provide a closed-shelf appointment based book loan service to members. There is a wide range of contemporary Japanese language teaching materials available for members. Japanese language teachers are eligible for free Full Membership, entitling you to all book loan privileges including our 'loans by post service' for teachers unable to visit the Japan Foundation in person to collect books. More information about the book loan service and joining is available at

[www.jpf.org.uk/library](http://www.jpf.org.uk/library).

## Specialist Japanese Bookstores

The Japan Centre and JP Books are two UK-based suppliers of Japanese books in the UK, including Japanese language learning textbooks. Their details are as follows:

**Japan Centre** [www.japancentre.com](http://www.japancentre.com)

35b Panton Street SW1Y 4EA Tel: 020 3405 1246

Email: [bookshoop@japancentre.com](mailto:bookshoop@japancentre.com)

**JP Books** [www.jpbooks.co.uk](http://www.jpbooks.co.uk)

24-25 Denman Street, London. W1D 7HU Tel: 020 7839 4839 Fax 020 7925 0346

Email: [info@jpbooks.co.uk](mailto:info@jpbooks.co.uk)



## The Japan Foundation Website – Resources Section ([http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching\\_resources.php](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_resources.php))

The resources section on our website features a number of selected teaching materials at a variety of levels, including lists of suggested resources for primary, GCSE, AS and A2 Japanese.



## Japan Society

Offers some excellent downloadable resources for the classroom such as Children's Festivals, Haiku and Kamishibai. You can also borrow an Activity Chest and purchase a Geography Resource Pack for schools. They also offer a volunteer programme, grants, assistance with school partnership programmes and teacher training.

Tel: 020 7935 0475 Web: [www.japansociety.org.uk/schools](http://www.japansociety.org.uk/schools)



## Japan Information and Cultural Centre (JICC), Embassy of Japan

Offers maps, brochures, stickers, activity sheets, postcards, posters, Japan Now Z-cards, artefact chests etc.

Tel: 020 7465 6589 E-mail: [education@jpembassy.org.uk](mailto:education@jpembassy.org.uk) Web: [www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/study/resources.html](http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/study/resources.html)



## 6. Network with other schools and teachers

Networking with other schools teaching Japanese can really help you to share teaching ideas, get advice and form partnerships. Some of the ways in which Japanese teachers in the UK can network include:

- **Japan Foundation's List of UK Schools Teaching Japanese**

(<http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/listofschoools.php>)

This list aims to give an accurate, up-to-date picture of Japanese language teaching in UK schools and to help teachers and coordinators of Japanese develop stronger networks. It includes all UK primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form colleges that are teaching Japanese (both state schools and independent schools). It also includes schools that are teaching Japanese outside of the curriculum, for example as part of a Japan club, or in preparation for an exchange trip to Japan. We encourage schools looking to start Japanese to contact schools local to them on the list for support and advice. If your school is currently teaching Japanese but is not included on this list, please email us at [info.language@jpf.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpf.org.uk) to get registered.

- **Japanese Language Education UK (JLE-UK) E-discussion Group**

Anyone who is teaching Japanese or interested in this area can join JLE-UK, our email discussion group. This allows list members to network and exchange views and information, including practical teaching tips. You can also find out about our upcoming courses and events for teachers, as well as job opportunities for UK-based Japanese teachers. To join, please email [info.language@jpf.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpf.org.uk).

- **Japan Conference for Schools**

This conference is organised by the Japan Foundation and the Japan Society. The conference is free to attend, and open to all teachers and local authority advisors. It aims to allow them to network and share practical ideas about introducing Japan and Japanese in their schools. It also aims to give experienced schools ideas on taking their Japanese activities further. The conference includes a variety of workshops by UK-based teachers. These focus on topics such as teaching Japanese language and culture, and linking projects with Japanese partner schools. Participants are also able to exchange ideas with colleagues and attend surgeries about funding and other support available for schools for Japan-related projects. We recommend subscribing to the Japan Foundation e-bulletin or to JLE-UK to receive notifications about when the next conference will run.

- **Japanese Teaching Associations**

You can join a Japanese teaching association to further increase your networking opportunities. Some of these associations include:

**The British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language (BATJ)** [www.batj.org.uk](http://www.batj.org.uk)

BATJ aims to encourage and promote Japanese language education in the UK, particularly by stimulating teaching and encouraging research in the field of language studies at university level.

**The Association of Japanese Language Teachers in Europe (AJE)** [www.eaje.eu/en.html](http://www.eaje.eu/en.html)

AJE is a trans-national organisation based in Europe, which aims to enhance and promote teaching and learning Japanese language and culture in Europe.

**The Association for Language Learning (ALL)** [www.all-languages.org.uk](http://www.all-languages.org.uk)

The UK's major subject association for those involved in teaching foreign languages at all levels.

## 7. Continual Training



The Japan Foundation offers regular courses and seminars for teachers of Japanese to help hone their language teaching skills and update their knowledge, as well as language training for non-native teachers of Japanese. Our regular courses and events for teachers include:

- **Japanese Refresher Course for teachers**

This annual course runs over several days and is designed to increase confidence in Japanese, develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, and further knowledge of Japanese culture. Open to non-native speaking primary and secondary teachers of Japanese with Japanese language skills, this is the perfect opportunity to enjoy small-group tuition in a supportive atmosphere. It is held at Intermediate and Advanced level, and takes place during the summer holidays.

- **Overseas Courses for Teachers**

The Japan Foundation runs teacher training and language study courses in Japan and France, giving teachers a chance to improve their language skills and teaching methodology and produce resources, whilst deepening their knowledge of Japan. Training programmes are offered to both non-native and native-speaking teachers of Japanese from all sectors.

- **JF Japanese e-Learning Minato** <https://minato-jf.jp>

This Japanese language learning platform provides an opportunity to study Japanese for those who may wish to begin learning, but cannot attend an actual Japanese language school. The main course of Minato is the Marugoto Japanese Online Course, which we recommend for those who wish to comprehensively learn about the Japanese language and culture. With this course you can have an integrated learning experience by using interactive e-learning materials to study the language skills needed for communication.

- **Seminars for Teachers**

Throughout the year, the Japan Foundation holds regular seminars for teachers of Japanese focussed on the latest issues in Japanese language education. These include training in using new resources or teaching methodologies, information days on specific exams such as ABC Awards, and lectures held in partnership with other organisations such as BATJ and AJE. The Japan Society also runs INSET days for teachers to provide practical curriculum-related ideas which can easily be translated to primary or secondary classrooms throughout the UK.

## 8. Keep pupils motivated

Of course, it is very important to keep pupils enthusiastic about studying Japanese! Fortunately, there are many exciting activities and opportunities available for schools teaching Japanese:

- **Accreditation**

Gaining a recognised qualification in a subject can be one of the biggest motivators of all, and fortunately for Japanese there are a number of different options available. **Edexcel/Pearson** offers **GCSE and GCE (A-level)** qualifications in Japanese, and it can also be studied as part of the **International or Welsh Baccalaureate**. Other awarding organisations that offer qualifications in Japanese suitable for schools include **ABC Awards** and **WJEC**. The **Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)** is an exam offered by the Japan Foundation worldwide, and is perhaps the most internationally-recognised certification of Japanese language proficiency.

- **Nihongo Cup – The Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools**

This annual contest is for any pupils studying Japanese at Key Stage 3, 4 or 5, either at their school or self-studying. Fantastic prizes are available to all those who make it to the finals day, including air tickets to Japan.

- **Japan Exchanges and Japan-UK Live** [www.japanuklive.org](http://www.japanuklive.org)

Japan UK LIVE! is an educational website designed and run by the Japan Society to encourage exchange between young people in Japan and the UK. It is totally bilingual - by removing the language barrier, participants are able to concentrate on what they want to say, rather than what they know how to say. The Japan Society can also help you find a partner school in Japan.

- **Hold a Japan Day!**

Why not hold a special “Japan Day” in order to motivate your pupils and increase awareness of Japanese in your school? There are so many Japanese cultural activities to draw from, including origami, kimono-wearing, calligraphy, Japanese cooking, martial arts, Japanese music...the list goes on. You could even have pupils who are currently learning Japanese teach some Japanese to those who haven’t studied it! Resources including worksheets can be obtained from the Japan Society and the Embassy of Japan; the Japan Society’s Japan In Your Classroom and Access to Experts programme can also help you find practitioners of Japanese cultural activities who will visit your school.

- **Trips to Japan (or Japan-related places in the UK)**

The ultimate motivator to learn Japanese must be to visit Japan itself on a school trip or exchange programme. Funding for Japan trips or exchange programmes may be available from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation or the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation. An alternative to visiting Japan is to plan trips to Japan-related places in the UK. The Embassy of Japan runs a programme called **Club Taishikan**, in which pupils can visit the Embassy and take part in Japanese cultural activities.

- **University courses**

There are more than 20 universities in the UK and Ireland offering Japanese language degree courses, and approximately 50 universities offering Japanese as a non-degree course. Secondary school pupils interested in taking their Japanese further can find out more information at [www.discoverjapanesestudies.org](http://www.discoverjapanesestudies.org) and at [www.jpf.org.uk/japanesestudies/survey.php](http://www.jpf.org.uk/japanesestudies/survey.php).

## 9. Keep in touch!

The Japan Foundation are always keen to hear how schools with Japanese are getting on, so please do let us know! We are particularly keen to hear if you have any ideas for interesting projects involving Japanese language teaching (these may be eligible for funding), or if you have any problems in getting Japanese started or keeping your Japanese classes going. Please feel free to call or email us at any time. We also make regular appearances at all kinds of Japan and language-related shows in the UK, including the **Language Show Live**, **Japan Matsuri** and **Experience Japan**, so look out for us!

Contact the Japan Foundation London at:



**The Japan Foundation London** [www.jpflondon.org.uk/language](http://www.jpflondon.org.uk/language)

101-111 Kensington High Street, London. W8 5SA

Tel: 020 7492 6570 E-mail: [info.language@jpflondon.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpflondon.org.uk)

Facebook: JapanFoundationLondon Twitter: jpflondon

### Other useful contacts

#### Japan-related resources and activities:

- **Japan Society** [www.japansociety.org.uk/schools](http://www.japansociety.org.uk/schools) Tel: 020 7828 6330
- **Japan Information and Cultural Centre (JICC), Embassy of Japan** [www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp)  
Tel: 020 7465 6500

#### Japanese language teaching associations:

- **The British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language (BATJ)** [www.batj.org.uk](http://www.batj.org.uk)
- **The Association of Japanese Language Teachers in Europe (AJE)** [www.eaje.eu/en.html](http://www.eaje.eu/en.html)

#### Funding:

- **The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation** [www.gbsf.org.uk](http://www.gbsf.org.uk) Tel: 020 7436 9042
- **The Daiwa Anglo Japanese Foundation** [www.dajf.org.uk](http://www.dajf.org.uk) Tel: 020 7486 4348

#### Accreditation:

- **ABC Awards** [www.abcawards.co.uk](http://www.abcawards.co.uk) Tel: 0115 854 1616
- **Edexcel** (GCSE and A-Level Japanese) [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com) Tel: 0844 576 0035
- **WJEC** [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk) Tel: 029 2026 5000
- **Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)** [www.jlpt.jp](http://www.jlpt.jp)